



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# Wastewater News

## Environmental Services

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## Public Comment Period for Intent to Withdraw Cedar River Watershed Nitrate TMDL

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is seeking public comment on the DNR's intent to withdraw the Cedar River watershed nitrate total maximum daily load (TMDL).

TMDLs include analyses and methods for improving water quality for water bodies on the state's Clean Water Act 303d impaired waters list. In 2006, the DNR finalized a TMDL for nitrate in the Cedar River. The DNR created the Cedar River TMDL due to the nitrate impairment in the segment of the Cedar River which Cedar Rapids uses as a source for municipal drinking water.

The DNR has concluded that for the TMDL to be equitably and accurately implemented, substantial revisions would be necessary to address the design and implementation deficiencies. To ensure the equitable and accurate implementation of Iowa and federal law, the DNR proposes to withdraw the Cedar River TMDL. Because the previously impaired segment is no longer impaired for nitrate, it will not be placed back on the Iowa 303d impaired waters list. The DNR will continue to assess the nitrate levels in segment and will take appropriate action if it becomes impaired again for nitrate.

Written comments regarding the intent to withdraw the TMDL can be submitted until 4:30 p.m. on Monday, November 7th, 2022. Please send written comments via email to [TMDLcomment@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:TMDLcomment@dnr.iowa.gov) or by mail to DNR Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Section, c/o TMDL Program, 502 East 9th St., Des Moines, IA 50319.

View the [Public Notice of the Intent to Withdraw the Nitrate TMDL in the Cedar River Watershed](#) on the [DNR Water Quality Improvement Plans website](#).

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## Upcoming Wastewater Conferences and Training

Please see the links below for more information on upcoming wastewater conferences.

- **October 26, 2022 - Iowa Water Environment Association Region 5 Fall Meeting**
  - The IAWEA Region IV Fall meeting will be held at the Indianola wastewater treatment facility at 10939 Grimes Street in Indianola.
  - [Conference Brochure and Registration](#)
- **October 25-27, 2022 - Iowa American Water Works Association Annual Conference**
  - The AWWA-IA Annual Conference will be at the Hyatt Regency in Coralville.

- [AWWA Annual Conference website](#)
  - **December 6-8, 2022 - Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities 28th Annual Water/Wastewater Operators Training Workshop**
    - The Operators Training Workshop will be held at the Meadows Event Center at Prairie Meadows in Altoona.
    - [Event Website](#)
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## Operator Certification: Continuing Education Opportunities

Online and virtual training opportunities are being created and offered through community colleges, state industry associations, national industry associations, EPA, and other state industry partners. All operators should continue to monitor their emails and the Training Calendar on the [Iowa DNR Operator Certification Database](#). Look at the calendar often, as there are new opportunities posted throughout the week.

Please contact Laurie Sharp at (515) 725-0284 with any questions concerning operator certification training.